

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RBARRY:BG

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 055653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AFSI, UR, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING US DIPLOMATS AT SOVIET UNIVERSITIES

1. WHEN SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR YERESKOVSKIY WAS IN DEPARTMENT FEB. 26 ON OTHER BUSINESS, SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR RAISED US PROPOSAL THAT TRAINING PROGRAM BE SET UP FOR US DIPLOMATS AT SOVIET UNIVERSITIES ALONG LINES OF PROGRAM ALREADY SET UP BY JAPANESE. DEPTOFF OUTLINED AT SOME LENGTH BENEFITS WHICH SOVIETS WOULD REALIZE FROM CREATION OF CADRE OF US DIPLOMATS WITH INTERPRETER-LEVEL FLUENCY IN RUSSIAN AND UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTRY WHICH STEMMED FROM ATTENDANCE AT SOVIET UNIVERSITIES AND ACQUAINTANCE WITH SOVIET CONTEMPORARIES. THIS WOULD ENABLE US SIDE TO ASSUME ITS SHARE OF BURDEN IN INTERPRETING AT MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING BY EXPOSING US DIPLOMATS TO USSR EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS.

2. YERESKOVSKIY WAS TOLD THAT PROGRAM WOULD INVOLVE TWO OR THREE US DIPLOMATS AT MOST AT MGU OR LGU AND THAT OF COURSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO ENJOY IMMUNITIES. US WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PREPARED TO OFFER RECIPROCITY, ALTHOUGH SOVIET TRAINING PROGRAMS IN US ALREADY HAD MANY OF FEATURES WE WANT IN SOVIET UNION.

3. YERESKOVSKIY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT HEARING THAT MFA HAD BEEN INFORMALLY NEGATIVE ON US PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVANTAGE FOR SOVIET SIDE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE COMMENTED THAT HE COULD SEE BENEFITS FOR BOTH IN PROPOSAL. HE PROMISED TO REPORT APPROACH TOGETHER WITH HIS EMBASSY'S COMMENTS TO MFA.

4. SUGGEST EMBASSY MOSCOW FOLLOW UP AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH MFA. INGERSOLL

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